

# INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication **NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION** For Members Only

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## House Labor Committee Reports Labor Disputes Bill

With the House Committee on Labor agreeing to report favorably a labor disputes bill, this legislation is now before both houses of Congress with favorable reports. Instead of reporting back the Connery bill (H. R. 6288), which is a companion measure to the Wagner bill (S. 1958), the House Labor Committee authorized the introduction by Chairman Connery of a new bill (H. R. 7978), on May 9th.

Practically the only difference between the bills now before the Senate and House is that the Connery bill would put the proposed National Labor Board under the Department of Labor, while the Wagner bill would make it an independent agency.

## Trade Agreement with Haiti Effective June 3

The President on May 4th proclaimed the reciprocal trade agreement between the United States and Haiti, which was signed on March 28th and was ratified on April 26th by the Haitian National Assembly. Under the provisions of the agreement it will become effective on June 3rd.

Among the Haitian products on which the United States grants reduced duties are fresh pineapples and mangoes and guavas in preserved form. On pineapples, the rate is reduced from 50 cents to 35 cents per crate, or from 1  $\frac{1}{10}$  cents to nine-tenths of one cent each when shipped in bulk. On prepared or preserved guavas, the rate is reduced from 35 per cent to 17  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent ad valorem, and on mango and guava paste and pulp, from 35 per cent to 28 per cent ad valorem.

Among United States products on which Haiti reduces its import duties are preserved peaches, pears, apricots, berries, cherries, apples and fruits for salad, from 0.40 gourde to 0.26 gourde per net kilo; and evaporated and condensed milk from 0.30 gourde or 20 per cent ad valorem to 10 per cent ad valorem. The gourde is equivalent to 20 cents, the kilo to 2.204 pounds.

## Intended Acreage of Green Lima Beans for Canning

Reports to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics from 28 representative packers of green lima beans, giving acreage which these firms intend to contract or plant in 1935, indicate an increase of 12.7 per cent over that planted in 1934. The 28 reporting firms grew or contracted about two-thirds of the total acreage estimated for 1934.

Should changes in total acreage be made in line with these indications, a total of 28,210 acres would be planted in 1935 compared with 25,040 in 1934, 17,460 acres in 1933, 17,930 in 1932, 29,740 acres in 1931, and with a peak of 33,780 acres in 1930.

The following table shows, by groups of States, the total acreages which would result if changes are made in line with late April reports from packers to contract and plant acreage in 1935. As these planned acreages may be modified before plantings are actually made, they are not to be considered as estimates of planted acreage for the coming season.

State	1931 Acres	Planted Acreage		1934 Acres	Intended in 1935	
		1932 Acres	1933 Acres		As per cent of 1934 Pct.	Acres indicated
New Jersey .....	1,450	1,250	1,600	2,100	111.5	20,300
Delaware .....	8,400	4,000	4,200	7,400		
Maryland .....	3,900	2,300	2,300	3,200		
Virginia .....	5,340	5,600	5,350	5,500		
Ohio .....	2,020	(a)	(a)	600	97.1	3,400
Michigan .....	4,360	1,780	1,100	2,900		
Minnesota .....	600	(a)	(a)	(a)		
Other States <sup>a</sup> .....	3,670	3,000	2,910	3,340	135.0	4,510
Total .....	29,740	17,930	17,460	25,040	112.7	28,210

<sup>a</sup> "Other States" include Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, and for certain years, Minnesota and Ohio.

### Conferees Agree on Agricultural Department Appropriations

The report of the conference committee on the appropriation bill for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 31, 1936, was submitted to the House on May 7th. The report recommended an appropriation of \$1,540,879 for enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act instead of \$1,515,879 as proposed by the House and \$1,765,879 as proposed by the Senate.

The report also recommended elimination of the House provision relating to the issuing of bulletins or reports advocating reduced consumption of any wholesome agricultural food commodity.

### Stay Ordered on Brokerage Rule

The National Recovery Administration announced on May 6th that it had signed an order approving the stay of Rule 3, Article VII, of the salmon canning industry code, this stay to remain in effect until June 16th or, in event the N. I. R. A. is extended by law, until October 16th. The stay is subject to termination at the discretion of the National Industrial Recovery Board and becomes effective 20 days from May 6th unless good cause to the contrary is shown to the Board.

The announcement by the N. R. A. states that the stay was requested by the code authority for the industry because the provision

was found to be unenforceable at the present time, and that it is expected that some solution applicable to this and other food industries will be found before the expiration of the stay.

### **House Passes Banking Bill**

The House of Representatives on May 9th passed the banking bill (H. R. 7617) by a vote of 271 to 110, after two days of debate. The bill as passed contains few material changes from the form in which it was reported. A commodity dollar amendment offered by Representative Goldsborough was decisively rejected, as were other amendments designed to lessen the powers granted in the bill to the Reserve Board. The requirement in the bill as originally prepared by the Reserve Board, that state non-member banks be required to join the Reserve System by July 1, 1937, in order to continue receiving benefits of deposit insurance, was eliminated from the bill as passed by the House.

### **Standards Issued for Dry Peas**

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued standards of quality and condition for dry peas, effective June 10th. The grades provided for are "U. S. Extra No. 1," "U. S. No. 1," "U. S. No. 2," "U. S. No. 3," and "U. S. Sample Grade." Copies of the standards are available from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in this city.

### **Legislation Canners Should Oppose**

House Bill 1305 introduced at the present session of the Legislature of the State of North Carolina provides in part as follows:

That in all suits against manufacturers of products intended for human consumption, where such products are put up in sealed cans, sealed wrappers, or packages, or in capped containers, proof by the plaintiff that in said cans, packages or containers, there was found any deleterious or harmful substance not fit for human consumption, shall constitute in such suit evidence of negligence, and the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* shall apply; and in the trial of said actions evidence of foreign or deleterious substances found in other containers of said manufacturers shall not be necessary or competent.

While there are decisions to the effect that the presence of a foreign substance in canned foods may be considered by the jury as raising a presumption of negligence on the part of the manufacturer, this doctrine is by no means universal and its extent in a particular case is always the subject of argument. The crystallization of such doctrine in statutory form as proposed in the above mentioned bill would make the defense of suits against manufacturers much more difficult, as such a statute would doubtless be emphasized in any argument to the jury on behalf of the plaintiff.

Canners residing or doing business in North Carolina or any other states where such statutes may be introduced should therefore oppose the enactment of such legislation.

### Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

CARLOT SHIPMENTS AS REPORTED BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity	Week ending May 4		Week ending April 27		Total for season through May 4	
	1934	1935	1935		1934	1935
<b>Vegetables:</b>						
Beans, snap and lima.....	485	507	556		8,819	6,484
Tomatoes .....	823	905	1,001		9,308	9,882
Green peas .....	291	183	357		3,336	2,330
Spinach .....	263	286	180		7,260	5,140
<b>All other vegetables:</b>						
<b>Domestic—</b>						
Competing directly.....	5,312	5,038	4,601		96,396	84,368
Competing indirectly...	21	44	69		10,573	13,773
<b>Imports—</b>						
Competing directly.....	3	13	44		245	494
Competing indirectly...	2	5	7		366	987
<b>Fruits:</b>						
Citrus, domestic .....	3,256	2,674	3,511		83,079	92,676
Imports .....	33	20	22		621	335
Others, domestic .....	1,446	1,598	1,181		19,699	22,549

### Weather Conditions

Rainfall during the winter 1934-35 was considerably above normal in most of the Midwest states that suffered from drought in 1934. Ohio, Indiana, Nebraska and southwestern Iowa were the only sections where rainfall was not equal to or greater than normal from September to April. Thus it appears as though subsoil moisture in the greater portion of the Midwest territory is adequate for normal yields.

During April, rainfall in this same group of states averaged below normal but considerably above April, 1934. In some sections, however, preparation of the soil for planting has been backward because of excessive rainfall.

For the week ending May 7, Ohio reports heavy rains completely relieving dry conditions but bringing farm work to a standstill. In Indiana, the soil was too wet for plowing during the week. In Illinois, the week was cold and wet, little corn has been planted, considerable ground is yet to be prepared. Sunshine and higher temperatures are needed for planting. Wisconsin and Minnesota reported a cold, wet condition for the week. In Iowa, heavy rains in the eastern part have prevented plowing. In the remainder of the state, plowing for corn has made good progress. Local areas in southwestern Iowa and southeastern Nebraska continued too dry for germinating corn.

Beginning with next week's issue, detailed current information on the temperature and rainfall of the principal canning areas will be

furnished. The following table shows the rainfall in the Midwest region stated in percentage of normal:

	September to April		April	
	1933-34	1934-35	1934	1935
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Ohio .....	..	67	50	62
Indiana .....	73	91	50	68
Illinois .....	68	126	50	76
Wisconsin .....	79	138	62	95
Minnesota .....	86	120	40	114
Iowa .....	73	116	38	69
Nebraska .....	70	87	25	42

### Chinch Bug Situation in Illinois

Information from Illinois entomologists in close touch with the chinch bug situation indicates that from a quarter to a half of the bugs migrated from winter hibernating quarters into small grains the latter part of April. Since that migration the weather has been almost continuously cold and rainy. If the migration to small grains had been completed, this weather would have been much more damaging to the chinch bug population than it has been. It seems doubtful whether the rainy period has actually reduced the chinch bug population more than 10 per cent. It has, however, stimulated the growth of small grains and put sufficient moisture into the soil so that there is small likelihood that the bug damage to small grains will be as severe in 1935 as in 1934.

### Fighting the Chinch Bug

How and when to fight the chinch bug is told in an illustrated pamphlet of 16 pages issued in March by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana under the title "Fighting the Chinch Bug on Illinois Farms." Chinch bugs can be fought, the bulletin states, by growing chinch bug proof crops; by proper rotation of crops; by growing certain crop mixtures; by growing resistant varieties of the crops on which chinch bugs feed; by use of barriers and traps when bugs are migrating from small grain fields to corn; by winter burning of the most favored hibernating quarters. Of all methods of fighting the pest, the cheapest and most effective, according to this bulletin, is the use of chinch bug proof crops.

### Increase in Bacterial Wilt of Corn Not Indicated by Winter Temperatures

Last fall an apparent correlation between winter temperatures and the distribution of bacterial wilt of corn was pointed out by Dr. Neil E. Stevens of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the suggestion was made that, if the relation was actually constant and sig-

nificant, it should be possible in early spring to forecast any increase in the severity of the disease this season. Dr. Stevens now reports that a comparison of the temperatures in the areas in which this disease is prevalent with those of preceding years, as well as with normal figures, suggests that any considerable increase in the amount of disease over last season is unlikely.

It was agreed by all observers that Stewart's disease, or bacterial wilt of sweet corn, was very much less severe and widespread in 1934 than in 1932 or 1933.

#### **Studies Undertaken by Fishery Advisory Committee**

The Fishery Advisory Committee for the Department of Commerce, appointed by Secretary Roper, met in Washington on May 6th and organized its work by the appointment of subcommittees to undertake specific studies. The subjects upon which studies will be made and recommendations ultimately submitted to the Department include: Protection of migratory fish; game fish; scientific research; food standards; marketing, distribution and production; international trade; relation of fisheries to other water uses; education and publicity. The subcommittees will make their recommendations first to Chairman Bernarr Mefadden of the Advisory Committee, who is expected to correlate them for submission to Secretary Roper.

#### **Cold Storage Holdings of Fishery Products**

Cold storage holdings of fishery products in the United States on April 15 amounted to 22,068,000 pounds as compared with 15,839,000 pounds on April 15, 1934, and the five-year average of 22,906,000 pounds, according to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. During the thirty days ended April 15, 4,781,000 pounds of fishery products were frozen compared with 6,912,000 pounds frozen in the corresponding period of 1934, it was stated.

#### **Production of Canned Vegetables in British Columbia Declines**

While production of canned vegetables has been increasing steadily in Canada, the pack in British Columbia has appreciably declined, according to the American vice consul at Vancouver. During 1934 British Columbia produced 157,702 cases of peas, 118,058 cases of beans and 365,398 cases of tomatoes. These totals compare with 252,484, 93,371 and 469,825 cases, respectively, packed in 1929.

The decreasing output of canned vegetables in British Columbia is attributed primarily to lower labor costs in Eastern Canada and to the fact that it is cheaper to ship such items from the latter section to Vancouver via the Panama Canal than from the interior of British Columbia.

Imports of American canned fruits and vegetables are now confined almost wholly to items that are not produced in Canada on a commercial basis, such as grapefruit, grapefruit juice, orange juice, sweet potatoes, pineapples, figs, artichokes and pimientos.

### **Diseases of the Pepper**

A 20-page illustrated pamphlet on important diseases of the pepper has been issued by the Georgia Experiment Station at Experiment, Ga., listed as Bulletin No. 186. It supersedes an earlier bulletin issued in 1923, and furnishes information accumulated since that time, along with additional suggestions as to cultural practices and other means of controlling diseases.

### **Control of the Mexican Bean Beetle**

The results of experiments on the control of the Mexican bean beetle in 1933 and 1934 are set out in Bulletin No. 296 of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station at Blacksburg. This 12-page illustrated pamphlet furnishes a brief statement of the life history of the beetle, the food plants it infests and the character of injury it does, and then describes the experiments in control.

### **Tomato Diseases and Insect Pests**

Identification and control of tomato diseases and pests is the subject of Circular No. 428 issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana, Ill. The circular is a 36-page pamphlet, with a number of halftone illustrations, covering general control measures, descriptions of twelve diseases and nine insect pests, and information on soil sterilization methods and fungicides and insecticides.

### **Bulletin Issued on Tomato Seedbed Diseases**

The control of tomato seedbed diseases of southern plants is discussed in a 40-page bulletin issued in February by the Georgia Experiment Station at Experiment, Ga., as Bulletin No. 187. Besides a brief historical statement on the development of the tomato plant business in Georgia and the reason for the use of southern-grown plants, the bulletin furnishes a description of the more important seedbed diseases, and then presents the results of experimental work during the four years ending with 1934. On the basis of these results the bulletin recommends treatment of tomato seed in a 1-3000 solution of corrosive sublimate for five minutes, a 2-3-50 Bordeaux spray application when the second rough leaves are starting, and applications of a 3-4-50 mixture at two-week intervals.

### Labeling of Freestone Peaches

Canners of freestone peaches will be interested in the following letter written by the Food and Drug Administration to a canner who had complained regarding the shipment of canned freestone peaches which are substandard because of raggedness and which are labeled merely "peaches" without the special statement "freestone":

By referring to your copy of F. D. No. 4 containing regulations and standards under the McNary-Mapes amendment you will note that there is no absolute requirement that canned peaches of the freestone variety be labeled to indicate that fact. However, since canned freestone peaches are practically always substandard because of raggedness, as defined in paragraph 16 of F. D. No. 4, provision is made in paragraph 18 (f) excepting freestone peaches from being labeled "Below U. S. Standard," when they are of substandard quality only because of raggedness, if they are labeled to show the type to which they belong.

Your complaint apparently is that shipments of canned freestone peaches which are substandard because of raggedness are being shipped labeled merely "peaches," without the special statement "freestone." This is, of course, a violation of the food and drugs act. You undoubtedly realize that, with the limited funds and personnel which we have available for the enforcement of the entire act, we must concentrate our efforts on those violations which are very much more serious from the standpoint of the ultimate consumer than the one you cite. Since the passage of the McNary-Mapes amendment in 1930 no additional funds have been appropriated for its enforcement, and for such work as has been done it has been necessary to take funds from the enforcement of other, often more important, phases of the act. Under these circumstances, we have limited our operations under the Mapes amendment to those substandard canned foods which constituted a serious economic cheat to the consumer.

We do not wish to imply, however, that because of this present necessary restriction canners should feel free to disregard even the more technical requirements of the amendment, such as failure to properly brand freestone peaches as substandard or as "freestone." It is the canners own legislation and we assume the industry is sufficiently interested as a group in complying to do so without constant threat of regulatory action.

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